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FREE

CLOPHILL SPOTLIGHT

MARCH 2015

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YOUR NEWS**

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A word from the Editor...

Hellooo

Goodness me, we're into March already. The evenings are getting lighter and it's gradually getting warmer (well, some days it is!). So what better time to get out and about and enjoy what Clophill and the local area has to offer?

As you'll see from the Diary page there's a diverse range of things to see and do – entertainment courtesy of a male voice choir, a talk on otters, chance to play croquet plus fun bingo and quiz nights.

And with Easter arriving at the start of next month, this issue also has details of **the Great Clophill Easter Egg Hunt**, which looks set to be a brilliant community event for all the family.

Whatever you do this month, enjoy!

Toodle-pip until next time!



The magazine staff

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Don't forget you can now read Spotlight online at
www.clophillspotlight.co.uk



The Great Clophill Clean-Up

The annual CPA Clophill spring clean will take place on **Saturday March 14** and during the following week.

- Collect litter from a designated area
- Wash the white gates and bollards on the A6

Either meet on The Green at 10.30am to choose an area and collect materials or contact Adrienne Gordon on 860875



Help to Keep Clophill Clean



St Marys Church, Clophill

Lent Lunches

Raffle



Bring & Buy

11th March
18th March
25th March

Corner Cottage, 2 The Slade
Clophill Methodist Church
72 High Street

12 noon-2pm

Everyone very welcome

For information phone Liz Henman 01525 860108 Please call if you require transport

Donations will go to the homeless charity Emmaus Village in Carlton

News from Clophill Heritage Trust



The Old Church and Eco Lodges

The photo shows **Nadine Dorries**, our Mid Bedfordshire MP, together with trustees Richard Hudson and Ali Bradbury, on a visit to the Old Church and Eco Lodges on 23 January 2015. 'Onwards and upwards,' says Nadine as she offers her support to the Trust to complete the facility, with the possibility of a visit later in the year from the Minister of Education.

Eco zone and water supply

On site we have our own water abstraction boreholes, drilled to a depth of 60 metres for our drinking water supply and 100 metres for ground source for heating purposes. These were completed at the same time as the piling works for the lodge foundations.

Thank you to Ian Kay from the village who is kindly helping us prepare our ground source heating solution to integrate with the grid connection, which we hope to be completed in the next couple of months. We'd like to be part of the current government's renewable heat initiative scheme with this eco solution.

All the eco lodges are specified to have underfloor heating from our ground source heat pump, giving efficient, even warmth throughout.

Coppicing course

On Saturday 21 February we held our first **Woodland Skills course** at the lodges. The weather was kind and participants were able to learn the theory and basic practicalities of coppicing in locally-managed ash and hazel woodland.

Forthcoming courses

- **A Guided Geology Trail, Friday 20th March, 10am-2pm** The trail will be guided by Bedford Geology Group. £3 per person
- **Willow Weaving, Thursday 9th and Friday 10th April, 9.30am-3.30pm** The course features an introduction to Willow Weaving, including the construction of a set of willow hurdles at the lodges. £45 per day; £70 if you book for both days – plus Clophill residents get a further £20 discount per person. There's also a kids' 'willow fun' session on the 9th, 10am-noon, £5 per person.



Willow weaving

To book, go to www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk or email info@ClophillHeritage.org

Thank you...to Kate Breed for the considerable time and effort she has put into developing our website. Please take a look – you can find out more on The Old Church and Eco lodges as well as book courses. www.ClophillEcoLodges.org.uk

Contacts: *Ali Bradbury (07894 710001), John Wright (07860 839845) or Barry Breed (01525 860834)*



The Second Great Clophill Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday 28 March 10.00 - 1.00

Chocolate
treat for every
child entering
the hunt

Also on the day, at Clophill Village Hall...

- Fun dog show
- Cake competition
- Indoor fayre
- Refreshments available

Egg hunt from 10.00–12.00 with
clues for 2 age ranges, 2 to 5 and
6 to 9. £2 per child.

Children must be accompanied by an adult and children's
safety is the responsibility of parents/guardians.

www.clophillpreschool.co.uk
for more details



What a busy half term we've had! Justin visited to play his African drums and didgeridoos, all the children had a turn and it gave us a chance to get out our 'talking drums' that we bought recently. The children have been learning to follow beats and copy rhythms. We've worked on quiet and loud sounds, fast and slow, and banging the drum soft and hard. All these types of listening activities help to develop children's ears and make them more practised at discerning different sounds, a useful tool as they begin to learn their phonics.



We're very proud to now have 29 children on roll, quite an achievement for our little Preschool – especially considering the Village Hall is tucked away up Kiln Lane. It's a true testament to how much our brilliant parents have clearly spread the word about us. We feel there's no better way for us to be promoted than by our parents; they're the ones entrusting their fantastic children to us, they get to see our weird and wonderful activities from painting real octopuses to make prints from, to mark making with sticks in the snow and everything in between.



Clophill Easter Egg Hunt, Saturday 28 March, 10am- 1pm, Clophill Village Hall....

At Preschool we love nothing more than meeting new people and making new friends. Our Preschool is about community, not just our village but bringing people together from the local area. Last year's Great Easter Egg Hunt was such a successful day, with lots of local families turning up, so this year we've decided to do it again – only bigger and better!

Here's what to look forward to...

- **Easter Egg Hunt** Taking place around the rec, the hunt is a great way for families to spend time together and test each other's general knowledge.
- **Fun Dog Show** You can enter your dog in as many categories as you like, £1.50 per class. The show will be judged by Lesley Taggart from ARAS Dog Rescue Centre.
- **Cake competition** Free to enter with three categories available: Classic Victoria Sponge (20-24cm tin); under-14s (cakes or cupcakes); the Show Stopper Cake. Judging will be by Anne Grant, President of the local Women's Institute, and afterwards we're asking entrants to let us sell off their cakes a slice at a time.
- **Indoor Fayre** Stalls already booked include ones for jam, wine and candles, plus the NCT, the Messy Church people and the local Toddler group offering face painting and tattoos.

Proceeds from the day will be divided between buying more exciting resources for the Preschool and ARAS Dog Rescue. It looks to be a great family day out and a brilliant way to meet up with friends and make new ones – so we really hope you can make it!

Chris & Imogen



Clophill through the years

by Colin Watt

1925 Rating and Valuation Act

(a modern Domesday)



Ever since William the Conqueror instigated the Great Survey, which resulted in the Domesday Book, governments have needed to carry out surveys to assess the populace for tax purposes.

In 1925 it was decided to rationalise the rating system and have one tax to replace the poor rates, borough rates and general district rates. This came into force on 1 April 1927 and surveys were carried out to establish the value of each property in the country.

A valuation officer visited each property and recorded his findings in a Field Book. The one for Clophill is kept at the Bedford & Luton Archives & Record Service along with a map which shows the location of each property. This record tells us a lot about living conditions at the time.

In 1927 there were 209 residential houses, the majority (135) having two bedrooms and being either semi-detached or terraced. They were of the 'two up, two down' format with a kitchen and living room downstairs. Outside, there was an earth closet and, sometimes, a washhouse – with the water being obtained from a well. The quality of the housing varied enormously; some were purpose-built, such as the Forester's Cottages

(9, 11 & 15 Back Street) which bear the plaque AOF 1882, while many were in very poor condition. Seventy-five per cent of houses were rented.

The valuation officer, as well as recording the details and making valuations, also recorded personal comments. Some houses he liked – for Holly Cottage he said "Nice garden. Very nice." A lot he didn't like. About April Cottage he said: "Ought to be destroyed. Disgraceful. Should be condemned." Some cottages, mostly thatched, he described as 'weekend type'. Of Woodside, 7 Back Street, he says: "Tenant comes from Finchley. Has been stung for the rent. Compares it with London prices and is satisfied." He was impressed by a tenant in Jacques Lane who'd been there for 90 years – her mother having lived there before for over 90 years.

Twenty two houses only had one bedroom, while 32 had four. The larger houses, with four, five or six bedrooms, had piped water and flushing toilets to a cesspit – though some still hadn't got basic services, such as Clophill Barns (London House) where the valuation was reduced by 33% "for no lighting or heating, no railway handy & general inconvenience".

Although there was the Water Works at the east end of the High Street, only eight houses were recorded as being connected. Drawing water from a well was the norm. Likewise, only four houses were recorded as having electricity, and three had a telephone.

There were 34 premises described as 'Farm Buildings', which usually consisted of barns, sheds, henhouses and pigsties. The High

Street, before the recent infilling, was much more open, with 24 of these groups of farm buildings along the street with surrounding fields being used for agriculture. The use of working horses is indicated by the presence of chaffhouses, food mixing buildings, mealhouses and stables. Some had mechanised equipment as there is mention of a 4 h.p. Petrol Engine & Meal Crusher and a Bentall Grinder with Massey Harris 4.5 h.p. engine used for preparing feedstuff for animals. There were also nine allotments, with large ones (20 acres) at Furze Hill, Back Street, Pine Hill, Shefford Road and Jacques Lane.

As for the pubs, the Flying Horse was described as "Gets main road traffic. Has good yard. Gets Charabanc parties. Mainly weekend trade. Best pub in village. Take visitors. Caution. Question of takings? Not so good a house as it used to be." The remark about the takings is because the quantities of draught beer, bottled beer and spirits seemed on the low side.

The Green Man was said to "Get Luton Police & Stati Fair once a year." It sold 1½ barrels of beer, 1 gallon of spirits and 1½ doz. bottles of

beer a week. This is similar to what the other pubs claimed but the valuation officer was obviously suspicious. At the Compasses he was told "Takings never reckoned up" and at the Rising Sun "Takings unknown". The Stone Jug landlord claimed he had "No idea of takings" and the valuation officer noted "Trade is probably incorrect. Tenant keeps no books."

The valuation officer wrote of the Stone Jug "The House very damp. Living room floor gone. (Dry rot- no ventilation) Trade is probably incorrect."

Buildings that have since disappeared include: the Church Room, High Street (opposite the church), which was used for all parish meetings and for Church of England purposes; the Reading Room (next to the church), which housed Clophill Men's Club; and the National School. The school was opened in 1872 for 233 pupils but had an average attendance in 1926 of 142. It was demolished after St Mary's school was built in 1973.

So the survey, like the Domesday Book, gives a picture of how things were in the past.

Find out more about Clophill's history at www.clophillhistory.org.uk



Bedfordshire
Cambridgeshire
Northamptonshire

Wildlife walks & talks



Otters

Monday 16 March, 7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall

Local mammal expert Richard Lawrence will be talking about this elusive aquatic county resident. **£2 per adult**

Open to all. No need to reserve a place – just turn up!

For additional information please email flitvale.info@gmail.com
or ring **Ann** on **07890 347327** after 6pm or at weekends

£2 per adult (includes hot drink and biscuits)

An Afternoon "In Concert"

with the

Vauxhall Male Voice Choir



PLUS
Special Local Guest Artiste

Kerry Watson
(Soprano)

Tickets
£8.00

Parkside Hall

Woburn Street, Ampthill, Beds MK45 2HX

Saturday 28 March 2015 2:30pm

(doors open 2:00pm)

Refreshments included during interval

*Tickets available from Ken Jones 01525-753110 or
Brian Matthews 01525-841077 or on the door*

Choir Website: www.vmvc.org

St Mary's School News



Our value for March is *Love*

We'll explore the real meaning of love and how you should show love for others by caring, respect and kindness. The children will be encouraged to demonstrate love through kind words and deeds and plenty of smiles. Mothering Sunday is in March and we'll be considering our mothers; their love for us and ours for them. Our message will be that from a feeling of love comes happiness.

Toy & book sale fund-raiser School Council were very proactive in February and arranged a 'nearly new toy and book sale' raising £55. Parents gave generously and it turned into a very successful event which the children ran themselves.

Movie night The Friends of St Mary's organised a Movie Night after school and the children were able to choose to watch either The Lego Movie or How to Train a Dragon. The PTA served hot dogs and other goodies and the children had a thoroughly fabulous evening. Thank you to The Friends of St Mary's for all their hard work – again!

Lent concert Our Lent Concert in school will be held on 16 March at 10.15am and 17 and 18 March at 2pm. The performance on the 16th is for families who'd like to bring their younger child and also grandparents. Tickets cost £5, available in advance. This year we're raising money for Cystic Fibrosis, and Liam Kirby, a former pupil who suffers with this disease, has kindly offered to come into school to talk about how CF affects people's lives.

Acorn Nursery News

We'd like to say a belated 'Hello' to Joshua E, Joshua T, Elizabeth, Cooper and Eva and hope they enjoy their time with us.

Our value this half term is Love.

We're continuing our theme of 'Going on a Bear Hunt' – when celebrating Chinese New Year we looked at Panda Bears and made Panda shakers.

We did a dragon dance too! We're looking forward to making Mothering Sunday cards and Easter goodies and finishing our theme with a Teddy Bears Picnic.

Mrs K. Bingley, Headteacher



Admissions for September 2015

- **16 January 2015 to 30 April** Late applications received during these dates will be processed in the late allocation round.
- **30 April 2015** Parent/carers who are declining the place offered or wish to change their preferences need to submit a change of preference form by this date to be considered in the late allocation round.
- **8 June 2015** Late allocation round offer day – decision letters posted out via a 2nd class post, so will arrive a few days later.
- **During June 2015** Late applications received after 30 April will be processed during this month.

To apply online go to www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/onlineadmissions

Christine's quick 'n' easy recipe

Pasta with Spring Vegetables



INGREDIENTS Serves 4

- 50g of butter
- 1 crushed clove of garlic
- 200g British asparagus
- 250g of peas (fresh or frozen)
- 100g baby leaf spinach
- 450g of tagliatelle
- 1 unwaxed lemon
- extra virgin olive oil
- salt & freshly ground pepper
- freshly grated parmesan
- 1 bunch chopped mixed fresh herbs – mint, parsley, basil

1. Bring to the boil a large pan of salted water.
2. Prepare the asparagus by discarding the tough parts and cutting into short pieces.
3. Pod the peas if using fresh.
4. Gently heat the butter and a splash of olive oil in a large frying pan then add in the crushed garlic and fry gently for about 1 minute.
5. Add in all the fresh vegetables, toss in the butter for 2 minutes then add in a soup ladle of hot water and cook for another 5 minutes (or until cooked to your liking).
6. In the meantime, cook your pasta in the boiling water following the instructions on the packet. The pasta should be cooked but still have a 'bite' to it.
7. Drain the pasta and add it to the vegetables.
8. Add in the zest and juice of the lemon plus the chopped herbs and mix well together.
9. Serve with freshly grated parmesan.



Christine Fellini runs Italian cookery classes at Casa Fellini www.casafellini.co.uk

Fancy an ad in Spotlight?

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Email ads@clophillspotlight.co.uk

Clophill & District Flower Club



Thank goodness the snow melted on 5 February in time to allow Alan Smith to come safely from Ipswich to bring us his demonstration 'Spring Symphony'. Despite freezing temperatures the hall was packed with club members and visitors and we were treated to a very good show.

Alan filled the stage with large arrangements displayed mostly on special metal stands that could be used either horizontally or vertically. Each design had beautiful flowers accompanied by lots of garden foliage which, because Alan lives in a gardenless flat, was acquired from 'lovely ladies' he knew who were happy to let him prune their gardens. Some foliage had also been acquired from municipal areas in the dead of night – but that's another story!

Alan peppered his demonstration with lots of jokes and funny anecdotes which kept us smiling all evening and we were sorry when it all came to a close.

Another high point of the evening was the presentation by our Chairman of **a cheque for £1,000 to Carers in Bedfordshire** (our chosen charity for 2014), all achieved with funds raised from our monthly bric-a-brac table, our plant stall at the Methodist Church Fete and weddings. Well done everyone. Helen Satterthwaite came to receive the cheque and explained to us that they have over 1,000 or so carers under their umbrella – a great proportion of which are aged between 11 and 20. They even had one who was 94. Being able to arrange days out for them or introducing younger carers to others in their age group was a considerable comfort and benefit all round to everyone dealing with sick or infirm relatives on a daily basis.



Joan Palmer, Club Secretary

On April 2 our popular 'Dabble Evening' returns when ladies can try their hand at something new.



Croquet at Wrest Park, Silsoe Social Day, April 14



The croquet season gets underway in April with a social day on April 14 at the new lawns adjacent to the football/cricket ground at Wrest Park. Four lawns are now available and anyone interested in playing (or learning to play) is welcome to come along.

Club members play socially and there are league matches throughout the summer.

For more information, phone *Keith Palmer* on **01525 860724**

St Mary's Church, Clophill

'Murder Now and Then'

by Diana Jackson

Thursday 9th April



7.30pm in the Church

A talk by Diana Jackson

An author who lives in Clophill

Tickets £5

– including refreshments

Further information from

Heather 860548 or Christine 860912

Let's talk about...stamp duty

with Sally Cobban



It's often at this time of year that people think more about doing things with their houses or moving. Stamp duty has recently changed so I thought I'd set out the differences so that you know the costs of moving.

Under the old rules, Stamp Duty charged successively higher rates on the whole of the purchase price. For this reason, it was often criticised as a 'slab tax'. Its structure meant there were sudden increases in stamp duty, when the price went above the next threshold.

For example, someone buying a home for £250,000 would have paid £2,500, or 1%, in stamp duty. But if the price was £1 more, they would have paid an extra £5,000, as they then paid 3% on the whole purchase price.

The new system came in from midnight on 3rd December 2014. The new rates of stamp duty will only apply to the amount of the purchase price that falls within the

particular duty band, making it more like income tax.

In other words, someone buying a house for £200,000 will pay nothing on the first £125,000, and then 2% of the next £75,000, giving them a bill of £1,500. Previously they would have paid 1% on the total purchase price, giving them a bill of £2,000. So although the percentage rates appear higher in some cases, the overall charge will mostly be lower.

The new rates will be

- Up to £125,000 0%
- £125,001 to £250,000 2%
- £250,001 to £925,000 5%
- £925,001 to £1.5m 10%
- Above £1.5m 12%

Someone buying a family home for an average price in England and Wales will now pay £4,500 less in stamp duty. The new system will also smooth out the steps – or sudden jumps – in existing stamp duty thresholds.

I hope you've found this helpful this month and as usual please do get in touch with any questions. I'm at sally@sjtax.co.uk or call me on **07899 808592**



Tower tours

St. Mary's old church, Clophill

**Climb the tower
Learn our history
Savour spectacular views**

Now open for bookings

Tours are available 10am and 2pm, daily

**Max. group size 8*

	Adults	£3
	Children	£2

info@clophillheritage.org
07935 911207

Very limited parking on site; please walk if you are able.

Aspirac by LRS

St Mary's Church Clophill

Traditional Church Fete and Village Event

Saturday 16 May, Noon-4pm



We're holding another Fete and Village Event on 16 May in the grounds of St Mary's Church. Our aim is to organise a Fete for the enjoyment of all ages and to involve as many organisations and individuals as possible. We want to provide the opportunity for all to promote their organisation and to raise money for their own cause. This year we're planning to extend the attractions to entertain the children and inform the grown-ups. The Greensand Community Choir, Shefford Majorettes and St Mary's School Maypole dancing team will all be performing during the afternoon. We hope everyone will be supporting this popular event.

Gill Jones & Carolyn Cranswick For further information phone 01525 861058

Bingo Night

Saturday 18 April, Silsoe Village Hall

Doors open at 7.30pm, Eyes down at 8pm sharp

Drinks/snacks available at the bar
(All drinks to be purchased at the bar)

Prizes Galore!!!

Free Entry/£5 per book This event is to raise funds for an expedition to Borneo in aid of helping local people of the Sabah region and the village of Tenom.



Collectors' Items

While clearing Elaine Goodall's house in Cainhoe Rd, the following items were found which may be of interest to a collector:-

- About **70 packs of playing cards** from various countries; good condition, many unopened.
- **Twickenham rugby programmes** from the 1970s; some international, mainly Sevens.
- About **80 bookmarks** in various materials

If you, or anyone you know, are interested in any of these items, please contact **Ian Gordon** on **860 875**. Donations to help offset her care costs would be gratefully received.

YOUR VILLAGE, YOUR FUTURE

What sort of place will YOUR Clophill be 15 years from now?

WE WANT YOU TO DECIDE!

Clophill now has a once-in-a-generation chance to produce its own plan to say **how the village will change over the next 15 years.**

Come along to a Discussion Event at the Village Hall on **Friday 13 March 7pm-9pm** or **Saturday 14 March noon-2pm** and find out more.

The Neighbourhood Plan is your chance to shape the future of Clophill. New planning powers handed to the Parish Council by Parliament give local people a say on what happens over the next 15 years.

'What power will this give us?'

The Neighbourhood Plan will provide some of the important policies that future planning applications – of all kinds – will be judged against. Therefore it's a document that will have a major say on whether applications in the parish are approved or refused. And that power is in the villager's hands. This has never been the case before, so this is genuinely ground breaking.

'Doesn't Central Bedfordshire Council produce this plan?'

Up until recently they were the only ones permitted to produce a plan. But the Coalition Government's 'localism' agenda has passed the power on local matters to local people. The CBC's plan will still be important in setting the high level planning policies but most decisions, including potentially the total amount of houses to be built in and around Clophill, can now be made locally.

'So what can our Neighbourhood Plan cover?'

This is largely up to you. The Parish Council has come up with a list of issues it considers to be important, including:

- **Housing** – the amount, location and type of housing
- **Employment** – how best to bring new businesses to Clophill

YOUR VILLAGE, YOUR FUTURE

Continued

- **Retail** – the need for shops and how to maintain the vitality of our existing shops
- **Transport** – how to minimise congestion and how to link with other local transport hubs
- **Parking** – how to alleviate parking problems around the village green and elsewhere
- **Energy** – ways to maximise on-site energy generation by renewable sources
- **Education** – how to address the lack of spaces at our existing primary school
- **Health** – looking at the need for and ways to provide GP/Dental services in the village
- **Tourism, Arts and Culture** – how to maximise the heritage offer of our village and its facilities
- **Environment and Recreation** – improving green open spaces/paths and play/youth facilities

These are just ideas – ultimately what the Neighbourhood Plan covers is up to you.

'How can we get involved?'

This is not the Parish Council's plan; it's the community's plan. Without the involvement of residents, businesses, community groups, landowners, etc we have no Neighbourhood Plan. We need your help. Please see <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/planning/strategic-planning/neighbourhood-plans.aspx> or <http://clophillparishcouncil.bedsparishes.gov.uk/4776073-4776083> for more information.

The discussion events at the Village Hall will tell you more about the Neighbourhood Plan and how you can get involved. It will also be an opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have and to register your interest in getting involved. Don't worry, this won't take up vast amounts of your time, but it will give you a chance to shape the issues you feel passionate about in Clophill. Other parishes and towns across the country are doing this in their communities and are finding out that it can be a lot of fun!

Email: Clophillneighbourhoodplan@gmail.com

AGM and Talks from Society Members

Monday 13 April

A short AGM followed by talks from society members with updates of work carried out during the year

Flitwick Library Lecture Theatre, 7.30pm for 7.45 pm
£2 for members and £2.50 for visitors, payable on the door

For further details contact Clive Makin on 01582 655785
or clive.makin@ntlworld.com, www.adalhs.org.uk

Ampthill & District Archaeological & Local History Society



Clophill Parish Council

Notes from the Annual Parish Council meeting held on 27 January and 24 February 2015

Readers are reminded that this is a resume only of the meeting. The parish council minutes are published and can be found on the internet after they are authorised (approximately five weeks after the relevant meeting).

Public Question Time

The leaders of the St Mary's School football teams attended and explained their need for the use of the playing fields for their senior team. Currently, the playing surface at the school isn't in a good state and the size is restrictive for the older pupils. It was agreed by the Council that, subject to them conferring with the other teams who currently use the Playing Field to avoid clashes, they welcome the additional use of these public facilities.

Police Report

At January's meeting, the Council were updated on the crime statistics for November/December by our local PCSO. It was noted that overall the figures were fairly flat versus the same period last year.

At the February meeting, the council received a report from Bedfordshire Police regarding crime within the village. Of real concern were three incidents – the burglary and theft from a house within the village; an attempted burglary where offenders were disturbed trying to break into another house; and a garage break-in. One of the houses in question wasn't in a remote location but right on the High Street.

The message as always is, keep your home, garage and vehicles secure, and report any suspicious behaviour to police. If you require crime prevention advice, you can get it free from Bedfordshire Police; they can help with everything from home security to advising about burglar alarms.

Parish Council Vacancy

It was accepted that, as we're now within three months from electing a new Council, the vacancy wouldn't be filled, but anyone showing an interest would be encouraged to attend the remaining meetings to get a flavour of how the council works. And if you'd like to talk to someone about the work and what's involved, you can contact Peter Clarke or the parish clerk Lyn Lyman - their numbers are on the 'Useful numbers' page.

Litter

The Council still has a vacancy for a person to litter pick following Mr Caton's retirement from this post. It involves approximately three hours per week. Anyone interested should please contact the Council Clerk, Mrs Lyman, on 01908 584159.

Old Bridge at the Green

The redundant bridge has now been removed by Amey, finally completing the project which was one of the highest requests made when the Village Plan was developed. With the other planting and work around the bridge we now have an area that the village can be proud of. Congratulations and thank you to all the people who have participated in helping the Parish Council to achieve this outcome.

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

Village Hall Fence

The Parish Council have agreed to contribute 50% of the costs to fencing required at the Hall, with the Village Hall committee covering the remainder.

Salt Bins

Two further salt bins have been acquired and positioned, one at the junction of the Causeway/High Street and the other at the junction of Jacques Lane/High Street. Both have been positioned on Highways land with their permission, and the salt is for use on the footpaths or highway. The salt is not for use on private driveways or property – to do so would be committing an offence.

After the new grit bin was positioned at the junction of The Causeway and the High Street, it was then moved by persons unknown and placed in the centre island, ruining the newly planted bulbs bought for the village. At a cost to the village, arrangements are in hand to put the bin back in the original position.

Planning – January and February 2015

CB/15/00419/FULL

Location: 5 Hawthorne Close, Clophill

Proposal: This application is for the conversion of a garage to include living accommodation. The parish council doesn't object to this application provided that if approval is given it will be on the understanding that the new proposal will be ancillary to the existing house and can't be sold as a separate dwelling.

SUPPORT

CB/TCA/14/00450

Location: 2 Hawthorne Close, Clophill

Proposal: Application to prune trees. This is essential work to prune trees near the highway. The council supports this application.

SUPPORT

CB/1404393/Full

Location: Brickwall Farm, Kiln Lane, Clophill

Proposal: This application is for the conversion of a garage to a detached dwelling. The premises in question are outside the village settlement envelope and in these circumstances the Parish Council objects to the proposal.

OBJECT

CB/14/04775/MW

Location: Cainhoe Quarry, Amptill Road, Clophill (A507)

Proposal: Application for the continuation of sand extraction, recycling of inert material and restoration of the site by land filling.

In the past there have been numerous complaints received about the working of this site. It's interesting to note within this application

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

the measures that have already been taken to reduce the main causes of complaint, that being dust from the crushing plant, noise and the mud and debris being carried onto the highway. Whilst the work done hasn't eliminated all of the problems it has certainly reduced causes. In addition, the land fill will be achieved with inert material and not rubbish from other areas of the country. The quarry is regularly monitored and this will continue throughout its working life. In the circumstances the council doesn't object to the proposals. **SUPPORT**

CB/14/04827/Full

Location: 1 & 2 Northfield Cottages, Great Lane, Clophill
Proposal: Conversion of two cottages to four dwellings. The site of these dwellings is outside the village settlement area. The council recently supported an application for the alteration of one of the dwellings to make it a more habitable place for a family. This application seeks to create two further dwellings and, if agreed, would set a precedent for other such properties, wishing to do the same. **OBJECT**

CB/14/04924/Full

Location: 5A Back Street, Clophill
Proposal: Extension to ground and lower-ground floor. Erection of a porch. The council is concerned about the overall impact of increasing the size of this property but takes note that the proposal, if agreed, won't alter the street scene. **SUPPORT**

CB/15/00077/Full

Location: 7 Goodwood Close, Clophill
Proposal: Some villagers have raised concerns about the size and development of this property but it's noted that most of the material alterations have previously been approved by CBC and the parishioners have been informed accordingly. One point queried with the planning authority is the height of the dormer windows but this is a matter for that reviewing department. **SUPPORT**

Neighbourhood Plans

A grant has been obtained by the Council to help with costs of developing a Neighbourhood Plan. Work has started in earnest and will in due course involve reaching out to all areas of the community to seek views on how we want our village to develop (see this issue for details).

Speed Signs

In order to improve the safety of vehicles leaving the Pine View site, highways have decided to extend the 40mph speed restriction on the A507 from the roundabout on the A6 towards Ampthill to the western side of Pine View.

Clophill Parish Council

Continued

The Lakes Site

At a special meeting of the parish council on 19th February, the lakes site and the recent purchase of the area by Gallagher's was discussed. Gallagher's would like to include the parish council in any talks with CBC regarding this land. The parish council agreed, and passed a resolution as follows. 'The parish council has a goal of bringing The Lakes Site into public ownership. The parish council understands that to achieve this aim some development may be necessary'. The parish council won't be part of any negotiation with planners. Planning authority isn't within the gift of the parish council but we do want to know what the intentions of the new owners are and if need be put on alert to try and influence any development. The Parish Council has been made aware that the firm has entered the site for consideration by CBC in the recent call for housing development. No actual plans have been submitted for consideration, only that Gallagher have registered an interest.

The next Parish Council meeting will take place in the village hall at 7.45pm on Tuesday 31st March 2015, with a surgery at 7.30pm

Parish registers for March

1815

Baptisms

March 1 Charles Chipperfield,
father, farmer
March 5 Mary (?)
March 26 (?) Neal
Mary Lincoln
Sarah Maddams
Maria Smart (?)

Marriages

Undated William Field to
Elizabeth Ansell

1865

Baptisms

March 5 William Bowler

Marriages

March 19 Edward Page, 26, widower
to Charlotte Sharman (?), 32

Burials

March? Thomas Bonner (?), 32
March 24 Sophia (?) Grummitt, infant

1915

Baptisms

March 7 Elsie (?) Sheppard
March 12 Ronald (?) Grummitt

Marriages

March 20 George King, 20,
private soldier to
Susan Webb, 22

Burials

March 23 George Simpson, 83,
Amphill Workhouse

1965

Marriages

March 27 David Waller, 23,
computer programmer
to (?) Powell

ST MARY'S CHURCH REGISTERS FOR FEBRUARY 2015





Funeral



February 2 Hubert Geoffrey Berrington,
90, formerly of Readshill

If you have any stories or information about the people named in the records, which you'd like to share with us, please get in touch.

What's on in and around Clophill

MARCH		Friday 13th Clophill Neighbourhood Plan meeting 7pm-9pm, Clophill Village Hall. <i>See this issue for details</i>
		Saturday 14th Clophill Spring Clean 10.30am, The Green, Clophill. <i>See this issue for details</i>
		Saturday 14th Clophill Neighbourhood Plan meeting 12-2pm, Clophill Village Hall. <i>See this issue for details</i>
		Monday 16th A talk on Otters 7.45pm, Maulden Church Hall. <i>See this issue for details</i>
		Saturday 28th Vauxhall Male Voice Choir 2.30pm, Parkside Hall, Woburn Street, Ampthill. <i>See this issue for ticket details</i>
		Saturday 28th The Great Clophill Easter Egg Hunt 10am-1pm. <i>See this issue for full details</i>

APRIL		Thursday 9th Murder Now and Then A talk by local author Diana Jackson, 7.30pm, St Mary's Church. <i>See this issue for ticket details</i>
		Monday 13th Ampthill and District Archaeological and Local History Society talk 7.30pm, Lecture Theatre, Flitwick Library. <i>See this issue for full details</i>
		Tuesday 14th Croquet at Wrest Park <i>See this issue for more information</i>
		Saturday 18th Bingo Night 7.30pm, Silsoe Village Hall.

MAY		Saturday 9th Quiz Night 7pm for 7.30pm start, Clophill Village Hall
		Saturday 16th Clophill Fete 12-4pm, in the grounds of St Mary's Church, Clophill.

On throughout the month...

Tuesdays...

- **Crafty Pastimes** Clophill Methodist Church School Room, 2pm-4pm. Bring along your knitting, sewing, tapestry, sketching or whatever Crafty Pastime you have. £1 donation, includes hot drink and biscuits. See 'Village Groups' for contact details.

Wednesdays...

- **'Tea and Chat'** in Clophill Methodist Church Schoolroom, 10.30am-noon
- **Zumba Toning** 8pm-9pm, Clophill Village Hall

Fridays...

- **Clophill Toddler Group** Clophill Village Hall, 10am-noon See 'Village Groups' for contact details

One Saturday a month...

- **Messy Church** Clophill Methodist Church, 4pm-6pm, 14 March; 18 April; 16 May; 20 June; 18 July; 12 September; 10 October; 14 November; 12 December. All-age craft activities, worship and a meal for all the family. No fixed charge, donations welcome to cover costs, children must be accompanied by an adult. See 'Village Groups' for contact details.

If you have any diary dates that you would like included on this page, please email clophillspotlight1@hotmail.co.uk

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Highways Department (Central Bedfordshire Council)		0300 3008049
Benefits Agency (Bedford office)		01234 361500
Registrar's Office (Births/deaths/marriages)		0300 3008089
Rail (Enquiries)		0845 7484950
Buses 01234 262151	(Link A Ride) 01525 840511	(Flittabus) 01582 406561
Luton Airport		01582 405100
Swimming	(Flitwick) 01525 717744	(Robinson Pool) 01234 212479

LIBRARIES

Bedford	01234 350931	Ampthill	01525 402278
Barton	01582 881101	Flitwick	01525 715268

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Central Beds Offices (Chicksands)		0300 300 8000
Mid-Beds MP		Nadine Dorries 01462 811992
Central Bedfordshire Councillors		Michael Blair 01525 404513
	Paul Duckett 07988 184061	Mark Smith 01525 402560
Clophill Parish Council		Peter Clarke 01525 861179
	(Clerk)	Mrs Lyn Lyman 01908 584159

HOSPITALS

Bedford (North & South)	01234 355122	Admissions	01234 261150
		Appointments	01234 359012
Luton & Dunstable			0845 1270127

DOCTOR'S CLINICS

Ampthill	(Houghton Close) 0844 8151055	(Oliver Street)	01525 631395
		(Greensands)	01525 631390
Shefford	Enquiries 01462 818620	Appointments	01462 810034
Barton 01582 528700		Flitwick	01525 715300

POLICE

County Police HQ		Non Emergency	101
Ampthill Station			01234 841212
Clophill Local Policing Team			101
			01234 842613

CHURCHES

St Mary's Parish Church	(Gill Jones) 01525 861058	or (Liz Henman)	01525 860108
St Francis of Assisi Shefford			01462 813436
Clophill Methodist Church		(Mr Jim Davies)	01525 860829

SCHOOLS

Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School & Nursery	(Headteacher Mrs K Bingley)	01525 860206
Harlington Upper School , Harlington		01525 755100
Redborne Upper School , Ampthill		01525 404462
Robert Bloomfield Middle School , Shefford		01462 628800

Village groups

Beverley Court
 Boxing Club
 Brownies
 Christians Together in Clophill
 Clophill Community Care
 Clophill Heritage Trust
 Clophill Parish Action
 Clophill St Mary's C of E Lower School & Nursery
 Clophill Toddler Group
 Clophill United Charities
 Conservation Group
 Crafty Pastimes
 Flower Club
 Friends of the Cheshire Home
 Funzone After School Club
 Indoor Carpet Bowls
 Messy Church

Pre-school
 St Mary's PTA
 Scouts and Cubs
 Tuesday Club
 Village Hall Booking Secretary

Sharon Soper 860920
 Loraine Freeman 07714 014484
<https://enquiryym.girlguiding.org.uk>
 Fergus Milne 860894
 Duty Contact 07791 773705
 Ali Bradbury 07894 710001
 Ali Bradbury 07894 710001
 Sharon Kempson 860206
 Emma Topliff 07921 810424
 Gillian Hill 860539
 Brian Adams 862297
 Anita Errick 860695
 Gillian Hill 860539
 Sue Pearson 861110
 Rosemary Ilett 860274
 Tony Meredith 860754
 Victoria Higgins 07920 568861
victoriajhiggins@hotmail.co.uk
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 Lindsey Jones 07879 430956
 Ralph Rayner 403956
 Betty Hampson 860750
 Marilyn Browning 07821 643936

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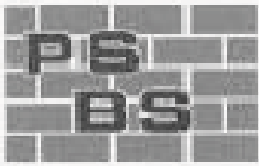
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